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Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session: Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2002

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on a request for a subvention of $213,000 to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2002 (A/C.5/56/2). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with the Director of the Institute and other representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. The Advisory Committee was informed that the subvention, which is used to cover the costs of the Director and administration, is important not only economically, but also to ensure the independence of the Institute.

3. The Advisory Committee was also informed during the hearings that the subvention, which used to cover the costs of three posts, now covers one and a half posts. The Committee recalled that the Director of the Institute had noted that for several years, the subvention had not been adjusted for inflation while salaries had been so adjusted. It was recalled that the subvention had temporarily been reduced from $220,000 to $213,000 for the period 1996-1997 in the context of the application of General Assembly resolution 50/214 and that the latter sum had been repeated for the biennium 1998-1999. The Committee also recalled that a provision of $213,000 per annum for the Institute had been included by the Secretary-General in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[1] and that it is proposed to be maintained at this level for the period 2002-2003.[2]

4. By its resolution 55/35 A of 20 November 2000, on the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General seek ways to increase the funding of the Institute, within existing resources. The Advisory Committee

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notes that the aforementioned note by the Secretary-General does not contain a request to review the level of the subvention.

5. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that, in considering whether or not to change the level of the subvention, article III, paragraph 2 (c), article VII, paragraph 2, and article VIII, paragraph 3, of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research[3] should apply. In accordance with article III, paragraph 2 (c), a recommendation for a subvention from the regular budget is made by the Board of Trustees of the Institute. Article VIII, paragraph 3, provides that the recommendation is transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval. The purpose and level of the subvention are set out in article VII, paragraph 2:

> "A subvention towards meeting the costs of the Director and the staff of the Institute may be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations. The actual amount of any subvention shall be determined in accordance with article VIII ...; it may be less than, but shall not exceed, an amount equivalent to one half of the assured income of the Institute from voluntary sources in respect of the year for which a subvention is being requested."

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1 and Add.1-2).

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7), para. II.26.

[3] See resolution 39/148, annex.